

Welcome to Supporting Communities 124th Edition of E-Zine, bringing you Best Practice from the Community Sector; Funding and Training Updates and Policy Developments in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland.

## Consultation launched on proposed changes to the Definition of Affordable Housing

**The Department for Communities has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the definition of Affordable Housing.**

The move is aimed at improving access to suitable housing and therefore contributing to reducing housing stress. The draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016-2021 recognized that housing challenges are broader than the need for social housing and Government must reflect wider housing needs and demands.

The current definition of affordable housing was drafted to reflect the affordable housing products available at the time of its development, namely social housing and shared ownership housing. The Department considers that it is now timely to provide a revised definition of affordable housing which incorporates a wider range of intermediate housing products. The new definition of affordable housing will not impact on access to social housing. The establishment of a new and broader definition of affordable housing would be able to take into account the needs of a wide range of groups, some of whom are not currently finding their needs adequately met by the market.

It would also provide the framework for housing associations and other potential affordable housing delivery partners to commence work to develop new

products for affordable housing that would in turn enable government to further meet housing needs and demand, thereby reducing housing stress. This consultation paper captures the Department's initial thoughts as to what a new definition of affordable housing might look like.

The proposed definition being: 'Affordable housing is housing provided for sale or rent outside of the general market, for those whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing which is funded by Government must remain affordable or, alternatively, there must be provision for the public subsidy to be repaid or recycled in the provision of new affordable housing.'

The Department is keen to test its thinking more widely on this issue and would encourage anyone with an interest in this topic to offer their thoughts on the issues raised within this paper.

The consultation will run from 24 June 2019 to 13 September 2019.

A copy of the consultation and all associated documents can be found at: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/definition-affordable-housing>



## Navigate easily to the right consumer advice

The Consumer Council has launched an online Advice Directory designed to help consumers and those working in a signposting or advice giving role across a wide range of everyday consumer problems.

Philippa McKeown-Brown, Head of Consumer Empowerment and Protection, said "All of us will at some time encounter a consumer problem, be it an unfair private parking charge, slow broadband speed, unwanted telephone calls, or problems with a second-hand car. Sometimes the time it takes to resolve the issue can be almost as frustrating as the problem itself. Our new online Advice Directory gives you the all the information you need at your fingertips, and talks you through what to do next. It also gives you a wealth of knowledge to hopefully prevent some problems happening in the first place".

Explore the Advice Directory at <https://advice.consumerCouncil.org.uk/>



## Review of Hate Crime Legislation launched

The Department of Justice has commissioned an independent review of hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland, to be led by Judge Desmond Marrinan.

The review is expected to examine the following issues:

- a workable and agreed definition of a hate crime;
- whether the current enhanced sentence approach is appropriate for Northern Ireland;
- whether new categories of hate crime should be created for characteristics such as gender and any other characteristics (which are not currently covered);
- the implementation and operation of the current legislative framework for incitement offences, in particular Part III of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and make recommendations for improvements;
- how any identified gaps, anomalies and

- inconsistencies can be addressed in any new legislative framework ensuring this interacts effectively with other legislation guaranteeing human rights and equality; and
- Whether there is potential for alternative or mutually supportive restorative approaches for dealing with hate motivated offending.



Judge Marrinan will be supported by a reference group, comprising a core group of relevant experts, and a broader forum of key stakeholders.

It is expected that the Review will provide a written report for consideration by May 2020.

To contact the Review Team telephone 028 9026 1395 or visit [www.hatecrimereviewni.org.uk](http://www.hatecrimereviewni.org.uk)

## New standard of energy efficiency launched to further reduce bills for low income households in Scotland

The Scottish Government has set a new standard to further improve the energy efficiency of homes in the social housing sector.

Initially set in 2014, the first [Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing](#) (EESH) aimed to be achieved by 2020 with 80% of social rented homes already compliant. A new standard, launched yesterday, will build on this success and sets an even higher standard of energy efficiency for social housing to meet by 2032.

EESH set a standard based on the minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating (broadly EPC Band C or D depending on property and fuel type). Under EESH2, all social housing meets, or can be treated as meeting, EPC Band B (Energy Efficiency rating), or is as energy efficient as practically possible, by the end of December 2032 and within the limits of cost, technology and necessary consent.

The Scottish Government has also announced £17.6 million loan funding to support householders in 2019-20 to make their homes more energy efficient.

Last year, 15,000 Scottish households saved more than £4.6m on fuel bills as a result of energy efficiency measures installed through the government's schemes, such as insulation, double glazing and heating controls.

Housing minister Kevin Stewart said: "A warm, safe home gives people a greater sense of wellbeing and saves them money. Importantly, by achieving the new standard social landlords will reduce poor energy efficiency to reach our fuel poverty targets and contribute to achieving the Scottish Government's ambitious climate change emissions reductions targets.

Social landlords are making excellent progress towards achieving the first energy efficiency milestone and I am confident that they will continue to lead the way in making our homes warmer and greener.

The additional £3.5m funding provided through the second round of the Decarbonisation Fund will help further landlords' progress, encouraging innovative approaches and ideas."



**New Phone Number:  
028 9052 2522**

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland has a new main phone number, please ensure you update you records accordingly. Probation offices have also changed their phone numbers.

The most up to date list of new contact numbers is on the PBNI website at <https://www.pbni.org.uk/contact/>

**Need a phone number for Probation Board for Northern Ireland?  
You can find it at <https://www.pbni.org.uk/contact/>**

## BONFIRE ADVICE

NIFRS will work pro-actively with our statutory agency partners, elected representatives and local communities to ensure the safety of the public and our personnel at bonfires. NIFRS has a duty to ensure the safety of its personnel around bonfires and will therefore, visit bonfire sites to develop good relations with the local community and gain operational intelligence. NIFRS will not risk assess bonfire sites on behalf of any other individual, organisation or statutory agency.

### THINK SAFETY FIRST WHEN BUILDING AND ATTENDING BONFIRES

If we are called to a bonfire it's because somebody in that area is worried or concerned about the bonfire and NIFRS will respond. We are not out to spoil anyone's enjoyment but are there to protect life and property. We also appeal directly to young people to never build huts or dens inside a bonfire, as by doing so they are putting their life in danger.

### NIFRS appeals to people to 'Think Safety First' when building bonfires by adhering to the following safety advice:

- Site the bonfire well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs
- Bonfires should be kept to a manageable size
- As a rule of thumb, the bonfire should be a
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Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service

minimum of five times the height from property, ie, if the bonfire is 10 metres tall, it should be at least 50 metres from the nearest building

- Build the stack so that it is stable and will not collapse
- Never build a hut or den inside the bonfire

### NIFRS also appeals to 'Think Safety First' when attending a bonfire:

- Do not burn foam filled furniture, tyres, aerosols, tins of paint, or bottles
- Responsible adults should look after lighting the bonfire. Before lighting the fire, check that no children or pets are hiding inside it
- Never use flammable liquids (petrol or paraffin) to light the fire – use domestic firelighters
- Keep everyone away from the fire – especially children who must be supervised at all times
- For an emergency keep buckets of water, a garden hose or a fire extinguisher ready
- At any sign of danger, or in the event of an emergency, dial 999 and ask for Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

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# Consultations



## Consultation on the Housing Executive draft Chronic Homelessness Action Plan

On Wednesday 27th February 2019 the Board of the Housing Executive approved the draft Chronic Homelessness Action Plan. It is now undertaking a 12 week external consultation exercise to seek feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in the document. The Action Plan, consultation form and supporting documents are available at: <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations/Consultation-on-our-draft-Chronic-Homelessness-Act>

**Closing date: Friday 2nd August 2019**

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## Information Sharing for Child Protection Purposes

Department of Health

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/information-sharing-child-protection-purposes>

**Closing date; 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

## Corporate transparency and register reform

HM Government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/corporate-transparency-and-register-reform>

**Closing date; 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

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## Standardised Regional Payment Rates for Supporting People Services

NI Housing Executive

<https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations/Consultation-Standardised-Regional-Payment-Rates>

**Closing date; 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

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## Get on the Map of Community Development Activity in N. Ireland!

Prospect Awards CIC is inviting you to take part in an online survey that is part of the recently launched [Elevate Programme](#). We are mapping the scope and range of current community development support and training activity across Northern Ireland. This is one strand of the Elevate Programme, a Community Development Capacity Building Programme managed by the Community Development and Health Network and funded by the Public Health Agency.

The Survey will take about 3 minutes to complete (a little longer if you complete some of the free text boxes).

**It would be a great help if you could complete the [survey](#) by 20th July.**

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# Publications

## Publication of the Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2018/19 Annual Statistical Bulletin

**Planning statistics for 2018/19 are now available. These data provide an overall view of planning activity.**

Alongside this there is a summary of council performance across the three statutory targets for major development applications, local development applications and enforcement cases as laid out in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The publication is available on the Department for Infrastructure website at:  
[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/planning-activity-statistics](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/planning-activity-statistics)

### Key points:

The key points from the Northern Ireland Planning Statistics 2018/19 Annual Statistical Bulletin are:

- There were 12,541 planning applications received during 2018/19, a 3% decrease from the previous financial year. This comprised 12,404 local and 137 major applications.
- During 2018/19, 12,156 planning applications were decided, a decrease of over 1% from the previous financial year.
- In 2018/19 it took, on average, 14.8 weeks to process local applications to decision or withdrawal. This was within the 15 week target and represented an improvement of 0.4 weeks from the previous financial year. Individually, five of the 11 councils met the 15 week target in 2018/19.
- The average processing time for major applications was 59 weeks across all councils in 2018/19, almost double the 30 week target and an increase of almost nine weeks from the previous financial year. Individually, three councils met the 30 week target in 2018/19.
- Four in every five (81%) enforcement cases were concluded within 39 weeks in 2018/19; 11 percentage points higher than the statutory target of 70% and four percentage points higher than the rate for the previous financial year. Individually, nine of the 11 councils met the target in 2018/19.



Please click the link below to access the May/June 2019 edition of inpartnership – the newsletter for PCSPs which highlights local events and initiatives; <https://www.pcsp.org/sites/pcsp/files/publications/pcsp-inpartnership-mayjune-2019.pdf>

In addition there is a special edition to celebrate the first PCSP awards ceremony which highlight some of the brilliant work that the Partnerships are delivering in our communities  
<https://www.pcsp.org/publications/pcsp-inpartnership-special-edition-2019>

## Scope<sup>NI</sup>

Available online, including articles such a new oral history collection, the challenges facing older people and those facing deaf people seeking health or medical care.

Scope can be accessed at; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>

## Rural Community Network

The latest edition of the Rural Policy Link is now available from the RCN.

To access the publication, go to;  
<http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org/publications/default.aspx>



## NI Environment Link

The NIEL EU Matters for May 2019 is now available at;  
<https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/EU-Matters-May-2019.pdf>

For other NIEL publications and events, go to; <https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/>



## Housing4All Launch New Report into Issues for People Seeking Asylum

A Damning report into the issues facing asylum seekers in Belfast entitled 'A Prison without Walls: Asylum, Migration, and Human Rights' was released today (18th June 2019) during refugee week at a public event. The research, which involved conducting surveys with 70 asylum seekers, was carried out by the *Housing4All* campaign group supported by PPR.

Key findings of the report include:

- 78% of respondents reported mental ill-health, with 77% describing it worsening since entering the asylum process;
- 79% reported being unable to afford enough food;
- 71% of asylum seeker parents who responded reported being unable to afford school uniforms for their children;
- 31% of asylum seekers surveyed stated that their home was not safe, livable or secure;
- 7% of respondents have absolutely no means of financial support – excluded from all Home Office issued financial support, and banned from working under UK law.

The report identifies key areas in which devolved institutions in Northern Ireland can counter the impacts of UK legislation and policy, and deliver improved living conditions for asylum seekers.

Among these recommendations are:

- To provide every asylum seeker with a full social services assessment before they are allocated dispersal accommodation;
- The removal of [barriers to access to emergency accommodation](#) for asylum seekers who are appealing a refusal of their application;
- An increase the school uniform allowance to at least £100 p.a. per child;
- Free school meals during holidays to children of asylum seeker families;



- All devolved institutions to facilitate a “[Timebanking](#)” type scheme to allow asylum seekers to volunteer their time in return for goods and services.

Speaking on behalf of H4All, Siphso Sibanda said: “When an asylum seeker’s claim is refused their accommodation support is withdrawn, even if they plan to make an appeal. Because asylum seekers have no access to public funds, they are left on the streets. The Home Office has created a system of enforced destitution but local bodies can subvert the hostile environment by removing barriers to accessing homeless hostels using their devolved powers in relation to housing. We call on the Department for Communities and Northern Ireland Housing Executive to act and protect this vulnerable group of people.”

Aylisha Hogan from PPR said: “The Home Office – through their Hostile Environment Policies – has created a system that deliberately punishes and causes harm to people seeking asylum. We are supporting Housing4All in their campaign because everyone deserves to lead a dignified life and that is all they are asking for. People should be concerned by the appalling the way the Home Office is treating asylum seekers. We are talking about people who have literally fled war and persecution. They have come here seeking safety but Home Office policies only seek to cause them further harm. Our devolved institutions have the power to act to protect asylum seekers and they must act now.”

You can read the final version of the report here: <https://www.pprproject.org/resource-document/a-prison-without-walls-asylum-migration-and-human-rights>

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## Get Weather Ready Summer 2019 edition is now available

Highlighting developments to enhance community resilience, this newsletter has been developed to share experiences and help spread the positive work of Community Resilience Groups across Northern Ireland.

The newsletter is available at: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/getting-weather-ready-regional-community-resilience-group-newsletter>



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**Community Development and Health Network (CDHN)** is Northern Ireland’s leading organisation working to empower communities, improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities using a community development approach. The network provides a regular newsletter on the Building Community Pharmacy partnership programme and other work, including the Elevate Programme.



To access the Networks’ publications, go to; <https://www.cdhn.org/cdhn-news>

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# Special Focus



## Welcoming women into the workplace

**Encouraging the improvement of opportunities for women.**

**View from the Chair article published in the Business Newsletter, 18 June 2019 by Dr Michael Wardlow, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission**

Leaving school for your first job is daunting for everyone, but for a young woman moving into a predominantly male workplace, it can be doubly difficult.

Recently a young female engineering apprentice approached the Commission with a complaint of sex discrimination in her workplace. She talked about practical issues such as the lack of a women's toilet with sanitary disposal facilities, an absence of appropriate, separate changing facilities and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) that fitted.

She had concerns about the on the job experience that she was offered, which was more linked to administration - an area not relevant to the practical experience required to fulfill her college requirements. She also claimed that she experienced sexual harassment from two, more senior, male employees.

It was good to learn that her employer responded to her concerns positively – for example, by investigating the harassment claim and promptly implementing the investigators' decision. This is vital, as how any harassment complaint is handled sends a powerful message to employees about how seriously the issue is taken by management.

In any workplace, it is important to ensure all staff in the organization are aware of what is considered to be acceptable language and behaviour. This is an area where senior staff and line managers must lead by example and set the tone for the organization. This approach doesn't only apply to how employers treat women, but mean creating a good and harmonious workplace for all staff.

Some of the young woman's concerns involved very practical issues in areas covered by Health and Safety law and were capable of being addressed in ways that did not involve significant financial expense. Compliance with these, including having the right policies and practices in place to include women and girls in the workforce, would mean, for example, that dignity issues such as the provision of changing places, women's toilets and PPE that fits safely and properly would not arise.

The skills shortage in engineering is a real issue. The Royal Academy of Engineering reports that an additional 87,000 graduate level engineers are needed each year between now and 2020, but the higher education system is producing only 46,000 engineering graduates annually. This suggests that the UK has a long way to go to fill this predicted skills gap. From this point of view, the importance of encouraging as many young people as possible into engineering is obvious.

A key focus of the Commission's work over the next three years will be encouraging the improvement of opportunities for women to work and progress in their careers, especially in predominantly male areas where there has been consistent under-representation, such as manufacturing, transport and communication, energy and water and construction.

It is important that, once parents and teachers have inspired young women to take up a career in [STEM](#) subjects, employers give thought to what will happen beyond the recruitment stage. Employers should anticipate the particular needs of these new recruits and support them to enable them to get as much out of their apprenticeship or their job as possible. Consulting women about these matters would be a good start.

For more information on other work of the Commission, go to; <https://www.equalityni.org/Home>

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

# Events

## Concern Debates 2019 – 20: Volunteer Adjudicators

Concern Debates give GCSE and A Level pupils the skills to formulate an argument, deliver a speech, stand up for their point of view and challenge their opponents' opinions. Concern is looking for volunteers to join our panel of adjudicators to hear the insightful views of today's youth on global issues.



It is a very small time commitment, two or three evenings during the academic year at schools in your local area. We will be running a brief training session to help the volunteers to understand the marking scheme for the debates. Each debate takes place in the schools in the evening between October 2019 and May 2020.

If you would like to volunteer as an adjudicator then please see:

<https://www.concern.org.uk/concern-debates-volunteer-adjudicator-sign-form> or for more information please use the contact: [debatesni@concern.net](mailto:debatesni@concern.net) or call: 02890 261524 before Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## Good Relations Week

16<sup>th</sup> September – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

*People Making Change for Peace*

Good Relations Week 2019 celebrates seemingly ordinary people who are actually pretty remarkable. They don't live their lives in the spotlight with a desire to stand out, but are driven by quite the opposite: a desire to fulfil their peacebuilding passion, embracing the energy that building united communities together gives them.



Celebrating the people who never give up and are always determined to go further to build peace in local communities. Register your event [here](#)

**BELFAST EXPOSED** **SUMMER SCHEME**

**KIDS SUMMER SCHEME (age 5-11)**  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 10am-3pm

**TEENS SUMMER SCHEME (age 12-17)**  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 10am-4pm

**FUN, CREATIVE & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

- Portrait & Still Life Photography
- Light Painting Photography
- Photograms in the Darkroom
- Photography Treasure Hunt
- Art-making at Ulster Museum
- Gallery, Exhibition & City Tours
- Photo Editing in Photoshop (teens)
- Making Portfolios & Story Boards (teens)
- Talking Reptiles Photography Visit
- Movie in Beanbag Cinema
- Streamvale Open Farm (kids)
- Slime Workshop & Balloon Modelling (kids)

**BOOKING INFORMATION**  
£50 for full week. To book, contact Conor at [c.obrien@belfastexposed.org](mailto:c.obrien@belfastexposed.org) or 02890 230965

Whether you want to improve your photography skills, or just take part in a range of fun and creative activities, then the Belfast Exposed Summer Scheme is for you!

For more Information

<https://www.belfastexposed.org/events/summer-scheme-kids/>

# Social Enterprise



## UnLtd Closing the Disability Employment Gap

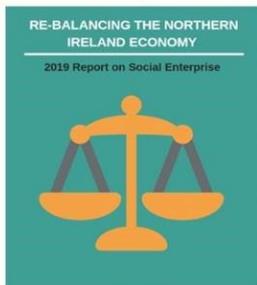
UnLtd are backing enterprising people with ambitions to improve the job market and transform employment for disabled people by providing practical support and financial support up to £15,000. We have partnered with Scope, to back social entrepreneurs across the UK and Northern Ireland with support to start and grow their ideas, projects or ventures.

For more information go to <https://bit.ly/2MCLC2j>

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NI

Your weekly round up of the Social Enterprise Sector

### "Re-Balancing the Northern Ireland Economy 2019 Report on Social Enterprise Launch



On Thursday 27th June, Social Enterprise NI launched their "Re-Balancing the NI Economy 2019 Report on Social Enterprise" at our Stakeholder Event. To read the report click on the picture above.

At the event Social Enterprise NI also announced Aimee Clint of Books by Stellas as our "Young Ambassador".

Congratulations Aimee



- Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019
- Employers For Childcare - High Rise News
- Prospect Awards CIC Invite
- Eastside Arts Festival
- Mindwise - Advanced Diploma
- Draw in Pen Productions - Work Experience
- Employer of Choice Programme
- UNLtd - Closing the Disability Employment Gap



## Volunteer Now – Events Calendar

To celebrate the launch of our new training calendar, we have two offers available for all participants :

- If you book a place on all three of these volunteer management courses – Attracting & Selecting Volunteers, Managing & Motivating Volunteers and Train the Trainers – Accreditation is FREE! Saving £250!
- If you prefer to attend all three of the above courses and do the Non-accredited courses – you will get a 10% discount! Saving £52!\*

To view our new training calendar, please go to <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>.

## Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 Nominations Close on Friday 5th July



### The 13 Categories for the Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 are:

- NI Social Enterprise 2018
- One to Watch
- Social Impact
- Consumer facing Social Enterprise
- Education Training and Jobs
- Health & Social Care
- Housing Association of the Year—Community Impact
- Credit Union of the Year—Community Impact
- Social Enterprise Stakeholder of the Year
- Local Council of the Year—Social Enterprise Strategy/Development
- Social Enterprise—Employee/Volunteer of the Year\*
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year (NEW)\*
- Social Enterprise Leader of the Year\*

Entries for this year's awards open on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May and you can download the Application form via the Link

below and return to [amanda@socialenterpriseni.org](mailto:amanda@socialenterpriseni.org). (\*Please note separate forms apply to these categories)

Could your Social Enterprises be a winner this year? Why not apply TODAY!

If you are a Private or Public sector organisation and either work in partnership with social enterprises or include them in your supply chain please apply for our Stakeholder Award.

Download your Nomination Forms Here:

- [Information Sheet](#)
- [Main Application](#)
- [Employee/Volunteer Application](#)
- [Leader of the Year Application](#)
- [Young Entrepreneur of the Year Application](#)

# Training



## Unblocking Potential

If you've been thinking about getting back into education but you are worried about a lack of qualifications, or it's just been a long time since you were in school, the Ulster University offers a community-based course to help build up the confidence and skills you will need. The Unblocking Potential course is delivered in the community over 6 or 10 weeks at a time that suits the group and is free for anyone earning less than 20K. Successful completion will put you on track to enter a degree level course and give you access to the University's student support systems.

**Supporting Communities is working with Ulster University to provide our OCN course graduates with a pathway to higher education. For more information on how we can help, contact our Training Officer, Karla Turner at [karla@supportingcommunities.org](mailto:karla@supportingcommunities.org).**

### About the Course

The course primarily sets out to build participants' self-confidence in their ability to study at Further and Higher Education level; to develop their self-awareness and understanding of the blocks to learning; and to equip participants with the skills to become autonomous independent learners. Successful completion of the course will enable students to obtain 10 credits at Level 3 and 10 credits at Level 4, which they can use towards entry to University/college.

#### Part 1- six week programme at level 3

The course will help participants to:

- identify common barriers to learning and factors which make it difficult for people to return to education
- gain an understanding of how early learning experiences impact upon current learning
- plan and organise study time
- develop team-working skills
- develop writing skills to communicate effectively

#### Part 2 – six week programme at level 4

The course will help participants to:

- gain understanding of note-taking and mind-mapping
- analyse their own learning potential in relation to theories and models
- gather information from a range of sources
- develop skills in referencing secondary sources of information
- communicate effectively through oral and written forms



Courses will be run in a community venue.  
Bursaries are available to cover the cost of fees.

For further information, including how to apply please contact:

FlexEd@ulster.ac.uk  
+44 (0) 28 9036 6680

 @UlsterFlexEd

 Flexible Education at Ulster Uni

 Flexible Education at Ulster Uni



# Housing Rights Summer Training Courses



## Universal Credit & Housing impacts

Skainos Centre, Belfast  
Thursday, July 25, 2019 - 10:00 to 16:00  
5.0hrs CPD

Universal Credit is gradually being introduced in Northern Ireland and has brought a new set of challenges for housing providers, tenants, homeowners and those who advise them. This training course will provide a complete introduction to the housing element of Universal Credit and the likely impacts of this new system on tenants and homeowners.

This course will cover:

- How Universal Credit differs from Housing Benefit
- How to assist people with applying for Universal Credit
- How housing costs will be dealt with under Universal Credit
- What type of accommodation will remain under the Housing Benefit system
- Who is eligible to receive help with housing costs and what restrictions may apply
- What assistance is available to help Universal Credit claimants who have to pay rates
- How to estimate how much someone will receive under Universal Credit
- About sources of financial support there are to help people who are struggling with the new system
- The eligibility criteria, application process and repayment procedures associated with the new system of loan support for mortgage costs
- How other elements of Welfare Reform, including the bedroom tax, benefit cap and welfare supplementary payments, interact with Universal Credit

## The Essentials: Helping clients access social housing

Skainos Centre Belfast  
Thursday, August 8, 2019 - 10:00 to 13:00  
3.0hrs CPD

This course will focus on:

- Accessing social rented housing
- Assessment and ranking of applicants
- Transfers
- Complex needs assessments
- Allocations
- Challenging decisions

Objectives of the course

On completion of this course, participants will be better able to support clients in applying for and gaining access to social accommodation

## Differences between Housing Benefit & Universal Credit

Skainos Centre Belfast  
Wednesday, August 7, 2019 - 10:00 to 13:00  
3.0hrs CPD

The Welfare Reform (NI) Order 2015 represents the biggest shake up of the social security system in Northern Ireland, since the creation of the welfare state. Its implementation is highlighting significant changes on how people access and maintain their housing.

This course will give you better understanding of Universal Credit Housing Costs and ensure you are better equipped to advise clients on the changes from the Housing Benefit (Legacy system).

For more information on course fees and to book a place, go to; <https://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>

## Volunteer Now Training Course



### Developing a Volunteer Programme

This is a one day interactive masterclass that explores the key areas to consider when developing a volunteer programme.

It is for both those who want to develop a new volunteer programme/project as well as those who want to reflect upon and review an existing programme.

It will give much needed reflective time to plan and consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for your new idea.

A Certificate of Attendance is downloadable through your online training account after attendance.

[https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/course/developing-a-volunteer-programme-2/cid\\_0/](https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/course/developing-a-volunteer-programme-2/cid_0/)

Course info

**Thursday 5th September 2019, 10.00am - 4.00pm**  
34 Shaftesbury Square, BELFAST, BT2 7DB

For more information on Volunteer Now courses, including tailored courses, go to;  
<https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>



## LIFE SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



British Red Cross offer engaging and interactive workshops designed to help 10-19 year olds build up resilience, learn about the society around them and help those in crisis.

### FIRST AID CHALLENGING STIGMA CONFLICT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

We provide free workshops in schools and youth work settings. The workshops can be tailored to your group's needs and you can book a single session or a series of sessions.

To find out more about what we offer, and book us to come out to your group please contact:

**Shannon Bunting**  
Northern Ireland Education Coordinator  
[sbunting@redcross.org.uk](mailto:sbunting@redcross.org.uk) | 07590 228856



#### First Aid

Young people will:

- > Build the confidence and willingness to help in a first aid emergency.
- > Learn essential first aid skills that are relevant to everyday life, including how to help someone who:
  - is unresponsive (breathing/not breathing).
  - is having a seizure.
  - is bleeding heavily.
  - has a head injury.
- > Assess and manage risks to make informed choices when helping others.
- > Break down barriers to helping others.

#### Challenging Stigma

Young people will:

- > Explore assumptions about terms such as 'refugee', 'migrant' and 'asylum seeker'.
- > Understand why someone might have to flee their home.
- > Analyse the harmful effects of unwelcoming, hostile or discriminating behaviour.
- > Consider how individual actions can help someone feel more welcome in their community.
- > Develop understanding, respect and empathy.

#### Conflict and its Consequences

Young People will:

- > Build resilience when faced with personal conflict.
- > Understand how their actions in conflict situations affect those around them.
- > Explore some current conflict in Northern Ireland and around the world.

# Funding



Belfast  
City Council

## Belfast City Council - Small grants for Community Safety Projects available

### Purpose of the fund

Policing and community safety partnerships (PCSP) aim to create safer shared communities and improve confidence in policing. All successful groups will be required to tell them how many people participated in the project, how many of them report that the project improved their confidence in policing and how many of them are more likely to report incidents to PSNI.

Small grants are the perfect way for Belfast City Council to support community and voluntary groups at a local level and to help build relationships with the appropriate Policing and Community Safety Partnership. The small grants will fund projects which as well as improving confidence in policing; prevent, reduce or address antisocial behaviour or crime and help people feel safer.

### Small grant themes

Projects which are funded by policing and community safety small grants must clearly link to at least one of the small grant themes.

These are to:

- build confidence in policing
- prevent, reduce or address antisocial behaviour
- prevent, reduce or address crime
- help people feel safer.

### Types of projects

If your application is for diversionary activity, you must provide evidence to show that there is a policing or community safety need at the times, days and dates you want funding for. For example:

- diversionary activity after 9pm;
- diversionary activity during the Easter holidays, summer holidays and Halloween and more specific dates for which you have evidence of the need. This can include specific dates where tension may be heightened in local areas;

Maximum award: £5,000 for each project.

### How to apply

For further information and access to online application please visit, <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/grantsandfunding/grantsandfunding.aspx>

**Deadline for applications - Friday 5th July at 12noon**

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## Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - funding priorities in the arts, children and young people, the environment, food or social change.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities throughout the UK both now and in the future. We do this by funding the charitable work of organisations that are building an inclusive, creative and sustainable society.

### Priorities

The Foundation offers grants to organisations doing legally charitable work in the UK across the following range of priority areas:

- The arts
- Children and young people
- The environment
- Food
- Social change

Applicants should apply for the amount that they need. The Foundation does not set limits and makes grants across a fairly wide spectrum of sizes.

In the past grants have ranged from £2,000 to £1.5 million with the support lasting from one to five years. Funding can be used for core or project costs, including staff salaries and overheads.

Small grants of £60,000 or less are also available for one-off projects, or for testing out new ideas and collaborations (general running costs are not supported at this scale).

### Who Can Apply

Charities and not-for-profit organisations with a regular

annual turnover of at least £50,000, that are properly constituted and involved in legally charitable work in the UK.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a track record to successfully deliver the work.

### How To Apply

The Foundation currently receives about 2,000 first-stage applications each year, of which only one in ten is successful. As a result, it has created the online eligibility quiz to ensure the applicant's request for funding fits one of the funding priorities.

Applicants should read the guidance notes which can be downloaded from the Foundation's website <https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/home>

The Foundation operates a two stage application process. First-stage application forms are available to complete online at the Foundation's website. Successful applicants will then be invited to complete a second-stage application form.

**This is a rolling programme and applications may be made at any time.**



Esmée  
Fairbairn  
FOUNDATION



## Hope for Youth (Northern Ireland) - Grants for cross community projects for disadvantaged young people

Grants are available for cross-community projects that give disadvantaged young people (aged 11-18) in Northern Ireland the opportunity to work together on practical projects that foster teamwork, creativity and personal development, especially within the arts or in the great outdoors.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available. Larger sums may be offered in exceptional circumstances at the Trustee's discretion.

### Who Can Apply

Organisations based and working in Northern Ireland can apply. To be eligible, applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:

- Their projects engage with young people in Northern Ireland, normally aged between 11 and 18 years.
- Their projects foster community integration.
- Their projects focus on outdoor activities, sport, music, dance, drama and the arts.
- Their projects promote personal or team development.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a cross community emphasis e.g. a focus on improving community integration in regard to cultural, ethnic or religious diversity and all applications must include a statement of accounts, including details of income and expenditure.

### Restrictions

The following are not eligible for funding:

- Core salaries of an organisation, though funding the staff costs associated with the delivery of a project will be considered.
- Transport, kit and equipment unless it is an essential part of a wider sustainable project.

Applications from individuals.

- Capital building costs.
- Provision of utilities and running costs.
- Publications or research (unless the output of the project is a result of young people's collaborative work, such as a book of artwork).
- Projects taking place outside of the UK or the Republic of Ireland (e.g. foreign travel or expeditions or the preparation for a trip).
- Core work of statutory organisations.
- Other established fund-raising charities.

### Eligible Expenditure

Priority will be given to:

- Projects based in recognised areas of socioeconomic deprivation.
- Projects where the benefits or effects on the communities and individuals can be measured.
- Projects that can demonstrate sustainable benefit.
- Longer-term projects ie, held over a number of months, where ongoing community development and improved community relationships can be realised.
- Projects based in recognised areas of socioeconomic deprivation.
- Projects that are small/locally based and those that are "start-ups".
- Projects that can match fund from other sources.

### How To Apply

Please read further guidance and an online application form can be found on the <http://hopeforyouthni.com/grants/>

Applications can be submitted by either post or email.

**Application deadline: 31 July 2019**

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## Comic Relief: Children Surviving and Thriving Grants

### Key Outcomes:

They want all children to survive and to achieve their potential during the first years of life - through good health, nutrition, opportunities for early learning, responsive and supportive caregiving, safety and protection. They want parents and other family members, communities and services to adopt the principles of children's rights to survive and thrive, leaving no child behind, and supporting child-centred and family-centred care and nurturing.

As a result of the Comic Relief investment they wish to see a contribution to one or more of the following sub-themes:

- Developing community based initiatives that contribute to sustained reduction in child food poverty

- Supporting families with young children, to help them reach their developmental potential up to their successful transition to primary school – through good health, nutrition, opportunities for early learning, responsive and supportive caregiving, safety and protection
- Reducing harm – for example, ensuring a strong focus on children and families who are experiencing or at high risk of neglect or abuse; building resilience among children with adverse childhood experiences; and tackling gender-related barriers that lead to unequal access for girls and boys to services and support
- Building capacity to improve the delivery of early childhood development, based on evidence of what works

The   
Community  
Foundation  
Northern Ireland

### Funding cont'd

- Strengthening organisations driving these changes, to ensure the work has long term benefit
- Supporting parents, carers and communities to be active and knowledgeable champions of effective early child development
- Developing and influencing guidelines, procedures, policies and implementation plans, and acting on opportunities for meaningful collaboration among key stakeholders

The maximum grant available will be £5,000

#### Who Can Apply?

You must be a locally led and based organisation. This means you are based within the area you are carrying out activities and have local people involved in the running of the organisation. As such they accept applications from the voluntary and community sector including:

- constituted voluntary and community groups
- Charities
- social enterprises
- co-operatives
- community interest companies
- organisations with income levels of £250,000 or below

Your organisation will need to have been running activities for a minimum of 12 months

#### Priorities:

It is anticipated that this will be a very competitive programme. Having priorities helps them to make difficult decisions when there are so many applications. Priority will be given to small, locally based and local run

groups or organisations. Depending on the quality and volume of applications received priority will be given to:

- Those with the lived experience where people directly affected by the issues are involved in shaping, evaluating and benefiting from the programme to be supported.
- Those that are new to Comic Relief and/or Community Foundation funding
- Those in geographically underfunded areas

#### What we won't fund:

- Vehicles, land, property, large scale building works
- Salary Costs and general core running costs, unless specific to delivery of a particular project
- Capital equipment
- Retrospective costs/debts
- Solicitor fees
- Medical expenses and medicines
- Holidays and overseas trips or shopping trips

#### How to Apply

For further information and the online application form please visit, <https://www.communityfoundationni.org/cr-children-surviving-and-thriving>

It is recommended that you read their Grant FAQs before starting your grant application. Should you have any further questions please contact the Grants Team on 028 9024 5927 or email [mhughes@communityfoundationni.org](mailto:mhughes@communityfoundationni.org)

**Closing Date: Wednesday 10th July 2019 at 1:00pm.**

## Fermanagh and Omagh Community Cash

Apply for up to £500 for projects around the following themes, Inter generational, Health & Well Being, Environmental Improvement and or Community Safety. Following last year's successful pilot for Community Cash in Erne East and Mid Tyrone electoral areas the Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive are running Community Cash in the following electoral areas:

Enniskillen; Erne North; Erne West; Omagh; West Tyrone

Your project should take place between 1 October 2019 and 29 February 2020

#### What is Community Cash?

Community Cash is the name the PCSP and NIHE has given to our Participatory Budgeting initiative. PB is an innovative process which enables people to have direct decision-making powers over the allocation of resources in their community in a way that is fair and transparent. The Fermanagh and Omagh PCSP and NIHE decided to run PB as a different way to stimulate ideas to bring people together or make their community safer.

#### Who can apply?

You don't have to be an existing group with your own constitution to apply. You just need a minimum of three people who have an idea for a project and a constituted group to sponsor your entry. Groups with a constitution are also welcome to apply.

#### What can we apply for?

You can apply for up to £500 to pay for things such as tutors, venue hire, equipment, one-off events, transport for trips.

Your project must show how it relates to one or more of the following themes:

- Intergenerational,
- Health & Well Being,
- Environmental Improvement
- and or Community Safety

We look to see if your project is legal, safe, achievable within budget and timescale.

There are a few things that we can't pay for such as salary costs, gift cards or gift vouchers, alcohol, political or religious activities or anything that would be considered contentious.

Please contact us if you're not sure.

#### How do I apply?

For further details and access to application forms please visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/policing-and-community-safety-partnership/community-cash/>

**Closing Date - 12 noon on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019**



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí